~~Pam~~
07076.i.27
1-3.

A
LETTER
TO
LORD CLIVE, &c.

[Price One Shilling and Six-pence.]

BRITISH MUSEUM

A
LETTER
TO
LORD CLIVE,
ON

The GREAT BENEFITS which may reſult to the PUBLICK from patriotically expending a ſmall part of a large private fortune:

PARTICULARLY IN PROMOTING THE

INTERESTS OF AGRICULTURE,

BY FORMING AN

EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

CONTAINING

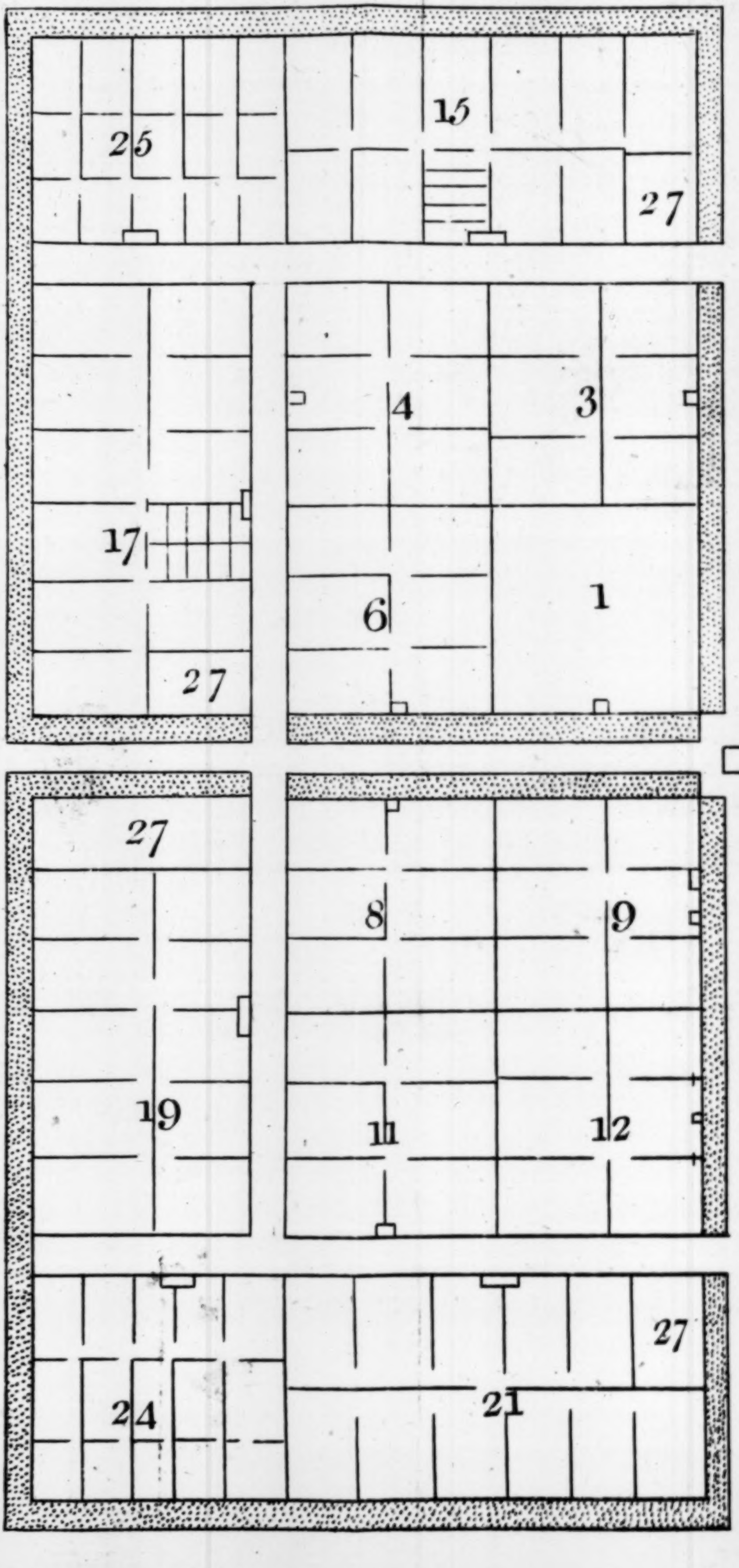
A practical Courſe of Management, with Eſtimates of the Expences and Profit.

Illuſtrated with a PLAN of the FARM.

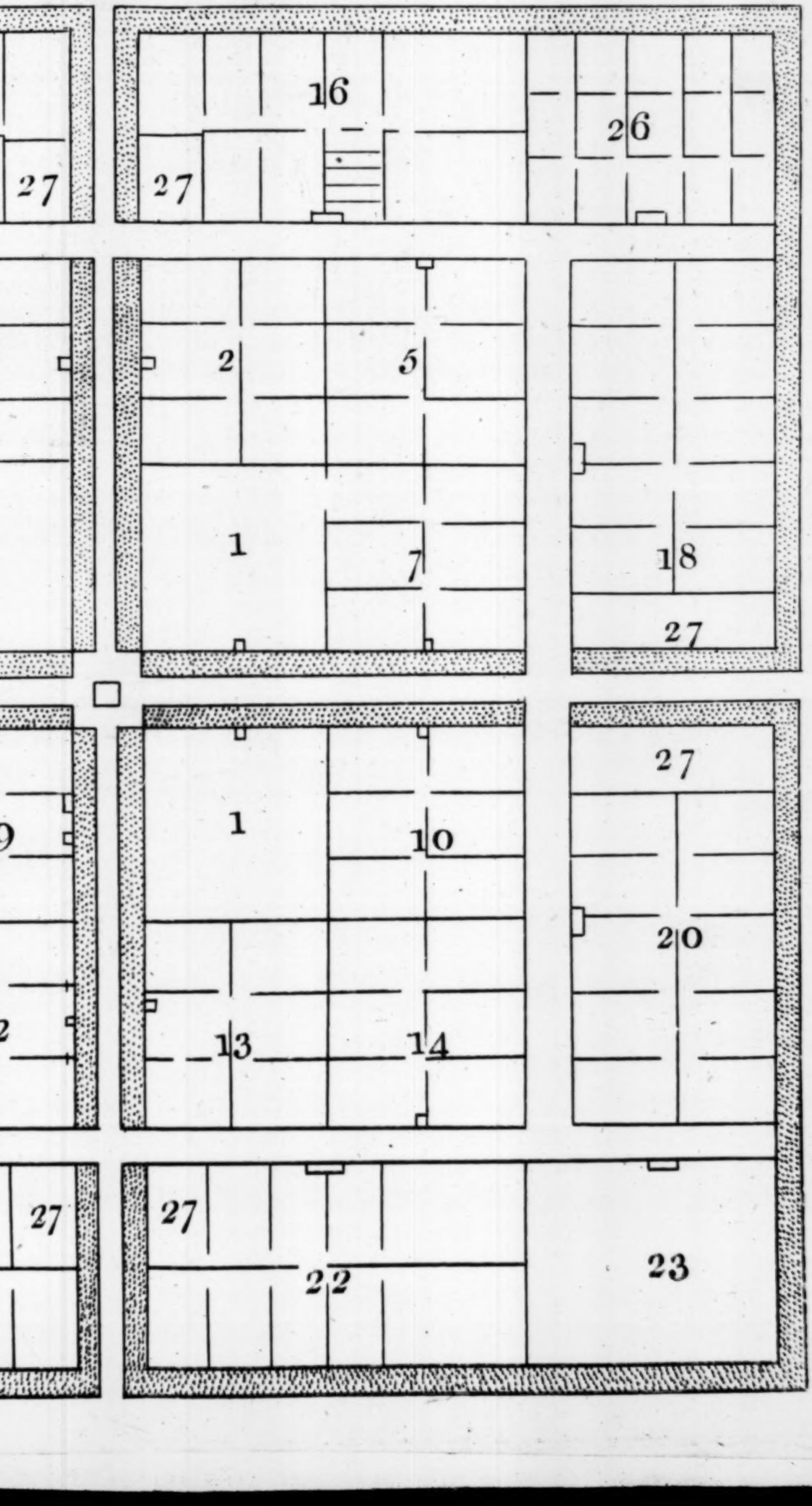
LONDON:
Printed for W. NICOLL, at the Paper-Mill, N°. 51, in
St. Paul's Church-Yard. MDCCLXVII.

BRITISH MUSEUM

PLAN of an Ex



n *Experimental* **FARM.**



A
LETTER
TO
LORD CLIVE.

My Lord,

LETTERS to Great Men which are laid before the Publick, are ſuppoſed, from common experience, unſeen, to be the children of party politicks. The ſentiments of the writers are imagined, of courſe, to flow either in panegyrick or cenſure—penned to ſerve the purpoſes of the authors, or to favour the deſigns of a State Junto. Believe me, I am actuated by no ſuch ideas; it is totally indifferent to me, whether your Lordſhip is a Whig or a Tory—whether in theſe fluctuating times you favour this or that Miniſter; I trouble myſelf no more with ſuch matters than with the colour of your coat. Nay; whether your Lordſhip condeſcends or not to give theſe ſheets a peruſal, it is no concern of *mine*;—it may be ſome of my country, and it is for that reaſon I am induced to wiſh I may have your attention.—All the knowledge I have of you is, that of your reputation; I am told, that you have been thrice in the *Eaſt Indies*, and diſtinguiſhed yourſelf in your country's ſervice in a manner greatly to your honour——that you have gained an immenſe fortune, and that you are a nobleman of a generous, liberal, and munificent diſpoſition.——The news papers have ventured (I know not on what authority) to mention your Lordſhip's revenue, as amounting to fourſcore thouſand pounds a year. If accuracy in this circumſtance was neceſſary to my deſign, I ſhould not quote the aſſertion: but it is ſufficient to my purpoſe, that your fortune is *extremely* large. Let me add, that you may expend a part of it ſo as to compleat the meaſure of your glory.—You have been great in arms, and may be greater ſtill in retirement!

The acquiſition of very large fortunes has frequently been to the honour of many of your countrymen; but how few have expended their riches in the ſame manner as they gained them!—to the good of their Country.

I doubt not but your Lordſhip will allow that it *may* be a matter of no trifling conſequence *to the Publick*, how a nobleman ſpends thirty, forty, fifty, ſixty or fourſcore thouſand pounds a year. There is a very material difference between ſquandering it at White's and Newmarket in the encouragement of knavery and wretchedneſs, or expending it in the gratification of a feminine vanity in dreſs, equipage, and livery ſervants; nor is there leſs diſtance between the latter method of diſſipating a great income, and ſpending it in building, planting, furniture, *patronage*, and ſuch amuſements—but ſuperior to all appears the ENCOURAGER OF AGRICULTURE AND USEFUL MANUFACTURES.

Laviſhing a large income in ſatisfying the boundleſs demands of gaming, encreaſes that meanneſs of poverty, which gives birth to venality; a quality in the human heart which levels empires to the ground with a ten times greater ſwiftneſs than the moſt victorious conquerors. Happy—thrice happy Britain, if thou never feel the influence of that all-devouring bane of liberty!—But, without extending the reflection ſo far, it ſhould be remembered, that the *vice* of gaming (for I can give it no other name) is the greateſt diſcourager of induſtry: from the ſtateſman, who ought to employ himſelf in the buſineſs of his country, down to the mechanic who ſhould attend to the labour of his hands, this pernicious ſpirit is equally deſtructive. Thoſe great men, who ſink their dignity to ſuch a degree as to give their inferiors an example of profuſion, extravagance and conſequent political meanneſs, had a million of times better bury their riches, than apply them to uſes ſo deſtructive to their country's welfare. Were their eſtates the reward of more than human bravery, conduct or knowledge, ſuch a uſe of them would be ſufficient to blacken their reputations —to tarniſh the brighteſt laurels that ever were entwined upon the brow of man.

A luxurious and effeminate life, though not attended with ſuch ill conſequences as that of the gameſter, yet is unworthy of a Britiſh Nobleman—it gives birth to no laudable exertions of the mind, nor does it afford employment to valuable manufacturers: add to this, the devouring profuſion of ſuch a life, and eſpecially when a whole family is involved in it, preſently waſtes and incumbers the largeſt fortunes, and reduces their poſſeſſors to ſuch a comparative poverty, that a venality, fatal to their country, is the infallible conſequence.

The nobleman who expends his fortune in ſome meaſure in the encouragement of the Fine Arts—who raiſes magnificent edifices, and adorns them with paintings and ſculptures, who has a taſte for muſic, and becomes a patron of the learned; ſuch an one infinitely exceeds him who dedicates his time to the turf and the dice box, or who ſacrifices on the altars of luxury and profuſion: He poſſeſſes merit, but he is in every reſpect the inferior of what I flatter myſelf we ſhall ſee Lord Clive.

Your Lordſhip is juſt come home in the poſſeſſion of an immenſe fortune:—that fortune chiefly conſiſts of what is commonly called *monied property*; you are not yet poſſeſſed of a landed eſtate proportioned to your general wealth. It is natural to ſuppoſe, that your Lordſhip will purchaſe one, for conſequence and importance in this kingdom are more annexed to the latter than to the former:—The land-owner in Britain feels this perpetually; beſides the ſatisfaction of finding himſelf, almoſt without deſign, the cauſe of giving bread to a multitude of dependants, and diffuſing a general plenty around him, *unleſs his time is ſpent in the Capital.*

May I preſume, my Lord, to venture a hint in the ſtile of advice, for your conduct in caſe you ſhould purchaſe a conſiderable landed property. You cannot expect to meet with ſuch a contiguous tract of country as you would wiſh to command; and therefore will probably accept of disjointed eſtates, if they are not too ſmall. In this caſe, my Lord, allow me to perſuade you to purchaſe ſome of thoſe extenſive tracts of barren land, which are ſuch a diſgrace to the landlords and agriculture of Great Britain. There are a thouſand benefits in buying in a poor ſoil (beſides thoſe I particularly mean to ſpeak of) which I ſhould apprehend would have weight with every one.—Such land is bought according to its rental, and not its improveable nature—A moderate eſtate gives a vaſt *dominion*, the poſſeſſor of a thouſand a year having five times the *command* which a rich ſoil will allow him—and he may apply a vaſt number of acres to ornamental plantations at a much leſs expence in loſs of ſoil, than any poſſeſſor of rich land. But beſides theſe circumſtances, there is another more material, which I ſhall beg leave to recommend to your Lordſhip's conſideration.

It has been conjectured by ſeveral very ingenious political arithmeticians, that if England alone contains 30,000,000 of acres, that half, a third, fourth or fifth at leaſt are uncultivated, waſte tracts, reputed, through miſtake, to be barren. Without pretending to determine the proportion exactly, it is a certain fact, that the quantity is very great, to the diſgrace of this region of liberty and agriculture. And it is a remarkable fact which proves in a ſtrong manner the natural fertility of our ſoil, that ſcarce a ſpot is to be found but will, by due culture, produce ſome ſort of profitable crops.

It is no very difficult matter to account for ſo much land remaining uncultivated in this kingdom: Moſt of it forms the paternal eſtates of the nobility and gentry, who, not making any new and conſiderable acquiſitions of fortune, live up to their hereditary incomes, and cannot therefore ſpare the ſums which are requiſite for the improvement of large tracts of land reputed barren. And thoſe who accidentally purchaſe ſuch, generally buying *in rental* to the utmoſt of their power, find a ſurplus for ſuch purpoſes as ſeldom as others.

Now, your Lordſhip's fortune being ſo uncommonly large, there is more than common reaſons for expecting your conduct to be different, in caſe you made a purchaſe in a poor ſoil: If you was to purchaſe a large tract of uncultivated country, (without mentioning other purchaſes in richer ſoils) you would nevertheleſs have vaſt poſſeſſions remain unrealized, and conſequently have it in your power to appropriate certain ſums to *the improvement* of ſuch waſte lands as part of your eſtate would conſiſt of: and permit me, my Lord, to aſſure you, that no funds or ſecurity in the world will yield you ſuch *certain* and *conſiderable* intereſt for your money. I mention this circumſtance only *en paſſant*, for I profeſs in theſe papers to addreſs your publick ſpirit—not your private intereſt. Land does not lie waſte from any conviction that it will not *anſwer* to improve it, but becauſe landlords in general cannot afford the firſt expence, however certain the future profit may be.

There are, however, in the improvement of barren lands (I never uſe this term *abſolutely*, for they in general are only called *barren* becauſe no one has money or induſtry enough to render them fertile) ſome uncertainties, which, if removed, would further the progreſs of ſuch undertakings: It is in your power, my Lord, to turn theſe uncertainties into experimental demonſtration—to convert the waſte lands of the kingdom into profitable farms—to make dreary wretched tracts of country ſmile with culture, and lively with inhabitants—and, in a word, to advance the riches, happineſs and welfare of your country, by making that which is at preſent a nuiſance, become the foundation of giving bread to millions yet unborn. *Hæ tibi erunt artes!*

Were your Lordſhip the poſſeſſor of an uncultivated eſtate, which might be ſuppoſed to conſiſt of ſheep-walks and warrens, or tracts poſſibly put to no uſeful purpoſe, you would have it in your power to tranſact as great things in Britiſh fields for the advancement of Britiſh agriculture, as ever you performed in the plains of Indoſtan for an acquiſition to Britiſh dominion, wealth and fame.—To ſpeak in a plainer ſtile, permit me, my Lord, to explain more particularly in what manner the poſſeſſor of a large, but barren eſtate, may convert it into a fertile one, not only to the infinite benefit of himſelf, but likewiſe of his country.

The firſt thing to be done, in ſuch a caſe, is always to incloſe the whole directly; if it is not deſigned to be all immediately converted into farms, yet no time ſhould be loſt from the great buſineſs of incloſing; and this, for very obvious reaſons; the green hedges (of whatever they conſiſt) have the more time to grow up and form a good fence; and the plantations the ſooner gain ſuch a height and thickneſs as to give a dampneſs and moiſture to the atmoſphere, which (though I do not remember its being remarked by any writers on rural œconomics) is of great conſequence in the improvement of dry, ſandy lands.

This latter circumſtance is of ſuch importance, that it would be greatly adviſeable to make many of the hedges and ditches, or other fences, double, leaving a ſpace between them about two or three rod broad, which ſpace ſhould be appropriated to plantations of ſuch trees and ſhrubs as delight in a poor ſoil: The firr, the larch and the birch thrive well in ſuch—nay, I have ſeen very fine plantations of oaks (raiſed from acorns) in ſuch ſoils as would ſtarve them if tranſplanted and ſet ſingly: They ſhould never be thinned too freely, nor till the roots are penetrated pretty deep, for air is not ſo requiſite to them in ſuch dry ſoils as moiſture, which always abounds, in ſome degree, in *thick* woods.

Incloſing and planting in this manner, is a buſineſs of great expence, totally beyond the purſe of a man who purchaſes to the extent of his capital; but it would prove of no inconſiderable profit, for the value of the trees would be daily improving; and were nothing further done to the ſoil, the increaſe of fertility would ſurprize thoſe who have not made attentive obſervations on the effects commonly reſulting from ſuch cauſes, though operating without deſign in the planter. The improvement upon the whole, I am confident, would, in a proceſs of years, more than pay all the expences of it; better *intereſt* than could be gained by any other means

—and this independantly of the prodigious acquiſition in point of beauty and agreeableneſs.

I will ſuppoſe this material work done; the ſuppoſition will not be thought rapid, if it is conſidered, that nothing is wanting for expedition in ſuch a caſe but plenty of money—and that the very firſt ſtep in the regular improvement of waſte lands, is the building a number of cottages for the labourers to be employed in the work. I might add here, that the diſpoſition of thoſe cottages might be contrived ſo as to render them not a little ornamental.

The next work which I ſhall venture to recommend to your Lordſhip is, the forming an EXPERIMENTAL FARM. An undertaking which, if executed in perfection, would confer immortal fame—the utility is acknowledged by all, but created by none. The tract of land appropriated for this glorious purpoſe ſhould be choſen in ſuch a manner as to comprehend, if poſſible, a ſample of all the ſpecies of ſoil ſurrounding, in which there would ſcarce ever be found any difficulty, as very dry lands are not ſo often of various natures as heavy ones. This farm ſhould, in the incloſing, be divided into the following compartments, which would be ſufficient to yield an abſolute knowledge of the nature of the land and the moſt profitable manner of managing it. I ſhall ſuppoſe the ſoil to be a dry ſand, an unimproved ſheep walk, and worth in rent from one to four ſhillings per acre.

FIRST DIVISION.

A ſmall ſquare for a barn and farm yard; adjoining it three fields of ſixty acres each.

N°. 1. The old ſheep walk left without improvement.

N°. 2. The ſurface pared and burnt according to the very ſenſible directions of the Marquis de Tourbilli.

N°. 3. One hundred loads of the under ſtratum dug, and ſpread upon the ſurface, and then broke up in the common manner. The manure to be laid on without diſtinction if it is ſtiff, whether marle, chalk, clay, or mixtures of all.

N°. 1. To be ſtocked with ſheep in the proportion of the old walk in general, and the number kept conſtantly on it, but fed in winter with a neceſſary quantity of turneps and hay from other grounds, of which accounts to be kept; the wool ariſing from the ſheep to be combed, ſpun, &c. &c. and wove by manufacturers employed in diſtinct buildings for ſuch purpoſes. N°. 2 and 3, to be kept for a given number of years in tillage, under the following courſe of crops: 1. Turneps. 2. Barley. 3. Clover and Ray-graſs, for three years. 4. Rye. The reſpective crops to be lodged in diſtinct diviſions of the barn, and a regiſter kept of *all* occurrences; the wool ariſing from the ſheep kept on the artificial graſs for three years to be manufactured like the other.

The reſult of this experiment will prove not only which is the beſt method of breaking up uncultivated lands, but likewiſe the difference of profit to individuals, and the nation, between ſheep-walks and arable farms; as the manufacturing the wool upon the ſpot with a regiſter kept of the employment of hands, will diſcover which ſtate of the ſoil employs moſt people, and makes the largeſt proportional returns. I ſhould beg your patience, my Lord, while I explain theſe minutiæ: they may appear tedious in the recital, but, believe me, they are not only greatly important in the execution, but at the ſame time *entertaining*; you will find few country amuſements ſo pleaſing as Experimental Agriculture: None are ſo philoſophically rational.

SECOND DIVISION.

A ſmall ſquare for a barn, fatting ſtalls, and farm yard; adjoining it ſix fields of ten acres each.

N°. 1. The turf ploughed up and ſown without any manuring.

N°. 2. Manured with the ſtiff earth beneath, of whatever kind, at the rate of 100 loads per acre.

N°. 3. Ditto 50 loads ditto.

N°. 4. Ditto 300 buſhels of lime ditto.

N°. 5. Pared and burnt.

N°. 6. Ditto and manured the third year with 160 buſhels of lime per acre.

Theſe ſix fields to be ploughed up and kept in tillage under the following courſe of crops, every fourth year all manured with farm dung 12 loads per acre, or 2 folds of ſheep, or 1 of hogs, except the firſt fourth year of N°. 6.

1. Turneps.
2. Barley.
3. Clover and ray-graſs, three years.
4. Rye.

This experiment will yield a certain knowledge in a point of which we are yet ignorant; for it is not experimentally known which of theſe manures is the beſt. And it ſhould be particularly examined of what nature the ſtiff earth is that is dug and ſpread, if it appears ever ſo unpromiſing, it ſhould nevertheleſs be uſed, and if there are different ſorts, then the fields ſhould be extended in number, that there might be one of each. Much ſandy, barren land remains ſuch, under the notion that the under ſtratum is not true marle or true clay, but it does not follow that other ſorts of ſtiff earth are not beneficial, when uſed with as much ſpirit as apparently better ſorts.

THIRD DIVISION.

Every thing the ſame as in the ſecond diviſion, except the crops: inſtead of turneps, ſubſtitute carrots.

FOURTH DIVISION.

Every thing the ſame as in the two latter, except the crops, which in this ſhould be;

1. Turneps.
2. Buckwheat.
3. Clover and Ray-graſs, three years.
4. Rye.

FIFTH DIVISION.

Ditto; except crops:

1. Carrots.
2. Barley.
3. Clover, three years.
4. Wheat.

SIXTH DIVISION.

Ditto; except crops:

1. Carrots.
2. Buckwheat.
3. Clover, three years.
4. Wheat.

Your Lordſhip may imagine theſe variations are not conſiderable enough; but the great point of knowledge which is wanting, is to know what ſuch a poor ſoil may be brought to produce, *with profit.* And any one who is really experienced in agriculture, muſt be ſenſible, that either of theſe experiments would be totally changed by altering only *one* crop in the four. For inſtance; Buckwheat may exhauſt the land ſo much leſs than barley, that inſtead of clover and ray-graſs, clover alone would do, and wheat might follow inſtead of rye, which is an alteration of vaſt importance. But of as great conſequence as theſe points are, the Publick are totally ignorant of them. Many farmers in the courſe of their buſineſs, vary their crops, in ſome few caſes, poſſibly in the manner I have ſtated; but then ſuch trials with them are almoſt always in different years—Barley in one year, and Buckwheat another, and ſo on; which circumſtance deſtroys all their authority, becauſe a crop which anſwers beſt this year, may turn out very differently the next, though upon the ſame ſoil. For theſe reaſons, my Lord, I apprehend, there is a neceſſity of extending theſe ſort of experiments with variations which, though not at firſt ſight of great conſequence, yet upon a cloſer conſideration, will be found of capital importance.

The feeding-ſtalls, mentioned in the preceding diviſions, are for the ſtall fattening of beaſts with the turneps and carrots. I ſhould remark, that they ſhould be bought and put immediately to fatting, that the *real* profit of thoſe crops may be known, and not be gueſſed at from the *calculated* difference between the beaſts lean and fat.

SEVENTH DIVISION.

A ſmall ſquare for a barn, fatting-ſtalls and farm yard; and around it ſix fields as before of 10 acres each, manured alſo in the ſame manner: The crops,

1. Turneps.
2. Buckwheat.
3. Burnet, five years.
4. Wheat.

EIGHTH DIVISION.

The ſame as the ſeventh; but the Crops,

1. Carrots.
2. Buckwheat.
3. Burnet.
4. Rye.

The Burnet in theſe experiments to be ſown broad caſt, and fed off with ſheep.

NINTH DIVISION.

The ſame as the ſeventh and eighth; but the Crops,

1. Turneps.
2. Buckwheat.
3. Sainfoine, eight years.
4. Wheat.

TENTH DIVISION.

The ſame; but the Crops,

1. Turneps.
2. Buckwheat.
3. Sainfoine, eight years.
4. Rye.

ELEVENTH DIVISION.

The ſame; but the Crops,

1. Turneps.
2. Buckwheat.
3. Sainfoine, eight years.
4. Ditto, pared and burnt, and turneps again, on all except the fields pared and burnt at firſt; in them turneps without.

The ſainfoine in theſe experiments to be ſown broad caſt, and mowed once a year for hay, and then fed with cows and horſes.

TWELFTH DIVISION.

The ſame; but the Crops,

1. Turneps.
2. Buckwheat.
3. Lucerne, five years.
4. Wheat.

THIRTEENTH DIVISION.

The ſame; but the Crops,

1. Turneps.
2. Buckwheat.
3. Lucerne, five years.
4. Rye.

FOURTEENTH DIVISION.

The ſame; but the Crops,

1. Carrots.
2. Buckwheat.
3. Lucerne, five years.
4. Wheat.

The Lucerne in theſe experiments to be ſown broad caſt, harrowed every cutting, mowed always, and uſed in the feeding of horſes in ſtalls.

FIFTEENTH DIVISION.

The ſheep-walk left in a ſquare of ten acres, divided into ten partitions of one acre each, by ſtrong pales ſix feet high; feeding cribs in them; and a large ſtall for ſhade, and water in each diviſion: The beſt method of gaining the latter would be by digging a long pond in ſuch a manner that every diviſion might have a mouth in it: if water cannot be thus had, a well ſhould be ſunk, and a wind-mill-pump erected, which would conſtantly ſupply troughs for each diviſion.——Around the ſquare ten fields of ten acres each; all of them manured with an hundred loads of the ſtiff earth beneath the ſurface *; and all of them ſown the firſt year with turneps, the ſecond with carrots, and the third as follows:

N°. 1. Lucerne broad caſt, alone, 30 ℔ of ſeed per acre.

---

* I have often mentioned this ſtiff earth promiſcuouſly: Good marle is of all others the beſt, and will make a great difference in the crops; but we are more in want of ordinary ſorts of manure being tried, as the remaining waſte lands of the kingdom are ſaid chiefly to cover ſuch. If this *Experimental Farm* has the benefit of both ſorts, this and other experiments ſhould be tried on both.

N°. 2. Ditto, with barley.
3. Ditto, drilled in rows one foot aſunder.
4. Ditto, in rows eighteen inches.
5. Ditto, in rows two feet.
6. Ditto in rows, three feet.
7. Ditto, in double rows, one foot aſunder, with three feet intervals.
8. Ditto, tranſplanted, the rows three feet four inches, and one foot in the rows.
9. Ditto, tranſplanted in rows two feet aſunder, and one foot in the rows.
10. Ditto, tranſplanted in rows one foot aſunder, and one foot in the rows.

N°. 1 and 2 to be harrowed; N°. 3, 4 and 10 to be hand hoed and weeded; N°. 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 to be horſe hoed, and the rows hand hoed and weeded—all as often as neceſſary, to keep the plantations *perfectly* clean from weeds; and after the weeds are totally eradicated, horſe and hand hoed as before twice a year, for the keeping the ſurface looſe.

This experiment ſhould be continued till all are worn out; but very material knowledge would reſult from it in a few years. The Lucerne to be cut regularly and given to a certain number of fatting cattle bought at a fair, and diſtributed in the ſeveral paled diviſions, by draughting them for each, one at a time, ſo that they may, in reſpect of the beaſts, be on an equality; and at the end of the ſeaſon, let all be directly ſold, at one market and on one day: This will be one means of gaining a knowledge of the value of an hundred weight of green Lucerne; and another (the medium between them will be very near the truth) is to weigh every cutting, and regiſter how long it laſts the cattle; and the common price of joiſting being taken, the value will that way be diſcovered; for this purpoſe a weighing engine ſhould be erected by the paled encloſures: But weighing will not alone do; becauſe the different methods of culture may make a difference of value *. I cannot

---

* There is nothing more difficult to gain a clear knowledge of than the value *per Ct.* or ton of any ſort of green herbage: feeding cattle, as mentioned above, is the ſureſt, becauſe it takes in both quantity and quality; but then cattle may founder in driving, and ſome may fatten better than others, which will make a difference; it is for this reaſon I recommend ten acres of each, the quantity will then leſſen theſe variations—Feeding and weighing too however will yield a pretty determinate medium.

but remark, my Lord, that every experiment of this ſort would throw an abſolute certainty on the ſubject; whereas, at preſent, we ſcarcely know any thing of the matter, except on rich or good ſoils.

SIXTEENTH DIVISION.

Every thing the ſame as in the fifteenth, except the ſubſtituting Sainfoine inſtead of Lucerne.

SEVENTEENTH DIVISION.

Every thing the ſame as in the two laſt diviſions, except the plant——this to be burnet.

EIGHTEENTH DIVISION.

Culture of Wheat.

A ſmall ſquare for a barn and farm yard, around it ten fields of ten acres each, manured in the ſame manner as before, and ſown as follows:

N°. 1. Wheat broad caſt every other year, carrots intervening.

N°. 2. Sown

N°. 2. Sown in the following courſe, viz. 1. Carrots. 2. Barley. 3. Clover and Ray-graſs. 4. Wheat.

3. Ditto; 1. Turneps. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat.

4. Ditto; 1. Carrots. 2. Barley. 3. White Peaſe. 4. Wheat, drilled in rows one foot aſunder for hand hoeing.

5. Ditto; 1. Turneps. 2. Barley. 3. White Peaſe. 4. Wheat, drilled in double rows one foot aſunder, four feet intervals, and horſe hoed.

6. Ditto; fallow, then Wheat drilled and horſe hoed every year in double rows, one foot aſunder, and four feet intervals.

7. Ditto; fallow, then Wheat every year in treble rows, one foot aſunder, and four feet intervals.

8. Ditto; ditto; double rows, five feet intervals.

9. Ditto; ditto; double rows, three feet intervals.

10. Ditto; ditto; treble rows, five feet intervals.

This courſe of Experiments ſhould laſt as long as the farm was continued; but very compleat knowledge would be gained in eight years; and the importance of ſuch knowledge muſt be evident to all.

NINETEENTH DIVISION.

Culture of Rye.

Every circumſtance of manure, crops, culture, &c. &c. the ſame as in the eighteenth, except the Wheat, inſtead of which in all the ten fields ſubſtitute Rye.

TWENTIETH DIVISION.

Culture of Barley.

Square, barn, yard, &c. as before; around it ten fields of ten acres each, all manured as before.

N°. 1. Barley broad caſt every other year, carrots intervening.

2. Ditto; ſown in the following courſe: 1. Carrots. 2. Barley. 3. Clover and Ray-graſs. 4. Rye.

3. Ditto; ditto; 1. Turneps. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat.

N°. 4. Ditto; 1. Turneps. 2. Barley, drilled in rows, one foot aſunder for hand hoeing. 3. White Peaſe. 4. Wheat.

5. Ditto; 1. Turneps. 2. Barley, drilled in double rows, one foot aſunder, four feet intervals, and horſe hoed. 3. White Peaſe. 4. Wheat.

6. Ditto; fallow, then drilled with Barley every year, and horſe hoed in double rows one foot aſunder, and four feet intervals.

7. Ditto; ditto; Barley every year in treble rows, one foot aſunder, and four feet intervals, horſe hoed.

8. Ditto; ditto; double rows, five feet intervals.

9. Ditto; ditto; double rows, three feet intervals.

10. Ditto; ditto; treble rows, five feet intervals.

TWENTY-FIRST DIVISION.

Culture of Potatoes.

A ſmall ſquare with a barn, farm yard, hog yard, boiling houſe and troughs, &c. around it eleven fields of ten acres each. Manured as before.

N°. 1. The turf ploughed up and planted with ſetts ten inches every way. 2d year Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Potatoes dunged for, with thirty loads per acre of farm yard dung.

2. Thirty loads of dung ſpread on the turf, and potatoes planted. 2. Barley. 3. Ten loads more of dung and potatoes again. 4. Wheat.

3. 1. Turneps. 2. Barley. 3. Thirty loads dung and potatoes. 4. Wheat.

4. Potatoes, 2d ditto, in rows five feet aſunder, one foot in rows, every year, and horſe hoed.

5. Ditto; ditto; four feet.

6. Ditto; ditto; three feet.

7. Ditto; ditto; two feet.

8. Ditto; every year manured with ten loads of dung, trench ploughed, and planted about ten inches aſunder.

9. Ditto; ditto; without dung.

N°. 10. Potatoes ten inches, and Wheat alternately, the former dunged, for every time ten loads per acre.

11. Ditto; ditto; and Buck-wheat alternately.

The potatoes of theſe Experiments to be all uſed for the feeding of hogs; and if they thrive well enough with them, then they ſhould, if poſſible, be fattened with them: thoſe kept by N°. 11. ſhould have their food mixed, buckwheat and potatoes. All the potatoes to be boiled. A regular account will diſcover accurately which method of culture is the moſt advantageous; and how far a poor ſoil may be brought to keep large numbers of ſwine with profit.

TWENTY-SECOND DIVISION.

Every circumſtance the ſame as the preceding, except the ſubſtituting Jeruſalem artichoaks inſtead of potatoes.

TWENTY-THIRD DIVISION.

Culture of Turneps.

Seventy-five acres divided into fields of five acres each, all manured with ſtiff earth as before, and all ſown the firſt year with turneps broad caſt; then as follows:

N°. 1. Thrown into the following courſe: 1. Turneps. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat.

2. Ditto; Turneps every year fed off by ſheep.

3. Ditto; 1. Turneps in equally diſtant rows, drilled one foot aſunder. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat.

4. Ditto; 1. Turneps in equally diſtant rows, two feet. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat.

5. Ditto; 1. Turneps ditto, three feet, and horſe hoed. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat.

6. Ditto; 1. Turneps ditto, four feet and horſe hoed. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat.

7. Ditto; 1. Turneps ditto, five feet, horſe hoed. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat.

8. Ditto; Turneps ditto, four feet, horſe hoed every year.

N°. 9. Ditto; Turneps, double rows, eighteen inches aſunder, and four feet intervals, every year.

10. Ditto; Turneps, the ſame as N°. 9. and broad caſt, Barley alternately.

11. Ditto; Turneps, broad caſt, and Barley alternately.

12. Ditto; Turneps, broad caſt, and Wheat alternately.

13. Ditto; Turneps, as N°. 9. and Wheat alternately.

14. Ditto; Turneps, broad caſt, fed off with ſheep, and Barley alternately.

15. Ditto; ditto; and Wheat alternately.

This Experiment will not only ſhew the comparative profit of the various methods, but will prove how far turneps can be depended upon ſown every year or very often: a caſe of great importance, where there is a large ſheep walk and but little arable ground.

TWENTY-FOURTH DIVISION.

Seventy-five acres ſown with turneps, and then ſown and planted with fifteen ſorts of foreſt trees, five acres of each, for a trial which kind thrives beſt in the ſoil.

Twenty-fifth Division.

A barn and yard adjoining it. Seventy-five acres in fifteen fields, for the mere trial of manures; all manured with an hundred loads per acre of the ſtiff earth, except Numbers 9, 13, 14 and 15; ſown the firſt year with turneps. The ſecond year manured as follows:

N°. 1. Twenty loads of horſe dung per acre.
2. Ditto of ox dung.
3. No additional manure.
4. One hundred and ſixty buſhels of lime.
5. Forty ſacks of malt combs.
6. Ten loads of cinder aſhes.
7. Five loads of ſoot.
8. Folded two nights in a place.
9. Forty loads of burnt ſtiff earth.
10. The ſurface pared and burnt.
11. Fifteen loads of compoſt a year old, and turned and mixed three times, conſiſting

ing of the following manures, equal quantities of each.

Stiff earth.
Ditto burnt.
Lime.
Cinder aſhes.
Ox dung.

12. Folded with hogs one day and a night in a place: The method is to fat them in the folds by ſtrewing their peaſe over the ground, having a large trough of water on wheels; the herdles on wheels, and all to be drawn by horſes.

13. One hundred loads of chalk.

14. Ditto of marle (if the ſtiff earth above mentioned be not a perfect marle or chalk.)

15. No manure.

The crops to be; 1. Barley. 2. Clover. 3. Wheat. 4. Turneps. 5. Buckwheat. 6. White Peaſe. 7. Rye.

TWENTY-SIXTH DIVISION.

Seventy-five acres divided into fifteen fields, all manured with an hundred loads of ſtiff earth per acre, and ſown with turneps, and commonly but variouſly manured every year until the whole is ſown with fifteen ſorts of ſeparated graſs ſeeds, in drills one foot aſunder, and kept perfectly clean, that a plenty of the ſeeds may be procured, and a knowledge gained of what ſorts are the moſt proper for the ſoil ſo improved; I ſay, *ſo improved*, as we well know that ſuch a ſheep-walk as this is deſcribed to be cannot bear crops of graſſes without great improvement. I mention no barn in this Diviſion, as the ſeeds ſhould be thraſhed in the field upon a cloth.

I ſhould extend thoſe diviſions, my Lord, but I am fearful the appearance of perplexity ſhould give an idea of difficulty and expence greater than the reality; and beſides, I apprehend the foregoing to contain moſt of the important enquiries about which we want chiefly to be informed: And he, my Lord, who will give his countrymen this piece of intelligence, believe me, will merit more applauſe than the moſt ſhining conquerors, or the moſt penetrating ſtateſmen.

But I am ſenſible, that ſuch propoſitions as theſe will carry the appearance of little more than the dreams of a projector, if they are merely propoſed for execution without ſpecifying the means of attaining the end, and the expence attending it: For to imagine that a nobleman, be his fortune ever ſo great, will embark in ſuch an undertaking (the particulars of which he cannot thoroughly underſtand) without having a ſatisfactory eſtimate laid before him, would be an abſurdity.

The plan which I have ventured to lay before your Lordſhip is not only extremely practicable, but, I can aſſure you, would require no conſiderable fund. However, general aſſertions in ſuch caſes as theſe, I am ſenſible, bear no authority; I ſhall, therefore, ſubmit to your Lordſhip's conſideration the general expence of ſuch an EXPERIMENTAL FARM as I have juſt ſketched: It would be too tedious to inſert every particular; I ſhall therefore extract from the minute eſtimate I have drawn up for my own ſatisfaction, thoſe totals which will afford the cleareſt idea.

For the better underſtanding theſe objects, I ſhall lay before your Lordſhip a plan of the whole, with the references from each diviſion to the foregoing ones in the deſcription, from thoſe of ſixty acres each marked 1. to the laſt, or twenty-ſixth Diviſion; and there are eight other ſmall ones marked 27, which are left for manufactory buildings, and cottages; and there is land enough to throw pretty large fields to each cottage, by way of reward to the labourers for uncommon induſtry, or as gratifications on account of their numerous families: and in theſe fields they might be encouraged to raiſe good crops, by giving premiums among them for the beſt. I ſhould obſerve, however, that their little farms ſhould not be larger than they could manage by appropriating one day in ſix to their culture; ploughing and harrowing ſhould be performed for them at the country price per acre; not *given*, leſt too much favour ſhould leſſen their induſtry.

I ſhall now proceed to explain to your Lordſhip the firſt and annual expences of ſuch an undertaking as I have ventured to ſketch the outline of.

THE FIRST EXPENCE.

The incloſures amount to 13,324 rods of ditching and hedging, at 4*s.* per rod, that is;

	s.	*d.*	*l.*
The ditch, -	1	6	2,664
The ſetts -	0	6	
The dead hedge	2	0	

N. B. This is a moſt extravagant price, but as I propoſe to have, as much as poſſible, executed every year till the whole is finiſhed, I make an allowance for the extraordinary price on that account.

	£.
Brought over,	2,664
Two hundred and ſixty gates, with the poſts, irons, painting, &c.	592
Building twenty barns with diviſions, as ſpecified in the propoſal: brick foundations, the ſides boarded, and the roofs tiled - -	2,000
Building thirteen fatting-ſtalls for the diviſions mentioned in the propoſal	1,300
Building in the center of the farm one dwelling-houſe for the perſon to reſide in who has the care of it	800
Three ſetts of ſheds for ſhade for diviſions 15, 16 and 17, and feeding cribs - - - -	500
Hog-yards, boiling-houſes, troughs, ciſterns, &c. for diviſions 21 and 22 - - -	300
Carry over	8,156

	£.
Brought over,	8,156
An ox-yard for two hundred oxen, with ſheds, racks, cribs, mangers, &c. &c. for ſummer if neceſſary as well as for winter, with a wind-mill for watering them - -	800
Building fifty cottages, each to hold two families - -	2,500
Building an edifice for manufacturing the wool ariſing from the farm	300
For paling in thirty acres of land in acre diviſions for N°. 15, 16, and 17 - - -	500
Waggons, tumbrils, ploughs, and ſundry implements of huſbandry, including every thing called *dead ſtock* - - -	3,000
Manuring 1,600 acres with ſtiff earth, 100 loads per acre, at 3*l.* per 100	4,800
Paring and burning 320, at 1*l.* 15*s.* per acre - - -	560
Carry over	20,616

	£.
Brought over	20,616
Two years rent, at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* an acre, on 2,500 - - -	640
Gratification to the conductor of the farm for two years attendance -	400
Purchaſe of one hundred and forty working oxen, at 15 *l.* -	2,100
Liming 130 acres - - -	450
Sowing and planting between the double hedges - -	600
To anſwer unſpecified demands	1,194
	26,000

I do not apprehend your Lordſhip will ſtartle at this amount, for I am told you have been ſo generous as to give no leſs a ſum than ſixty thouſand pounds at once to an hoſpital in the Eaſt Indies, beſides other preſents; which not only ſpeak the immenſity of your poſſeſſions, but a liberality of mind that deſpiſes expence, when incurred for the good of the Public. Let me once more aſſure your Lordſhip, that this 26,000 *l.* would repay a nobleman more amply in true glory, than fifty times the ſum expended in any other manner.—But let me next attempt a ſketch of the annual expence.

FIRST

FIRST YEAR.

	£.
Tillage, ſeed, hoeing, drawing, &c. of 1,290 acres of turneps, at 1*l.* 7*s.*[*] - - -	1,741
Ditto of 320 acres of carrots, at 2*l.* 13*s.* per acre - - -	848
Ditto of 100 acres of potatoes, and 100 of Jeruſalem artichoaks, at 3*l.*	600
Tillage of 150 acres of fallow, at 10*s.* 6*d.* - - -	79
As a greater accuracy is neceſſary in managing ſuch a farm as this, and as there muſt be a conſtant attention to the compariſon of the crops, &c. I add five ſervants kept extraordinary; board and wages 25*l.*	125
Carry over	3,393

---

[*] To add all the particulars would be infinitely tedious; I therefore only extract the totals from my eſtimates: if this propoſition was ſo happy as to meet with attention, I could add them at any time. The article tillage includes uſe, wear and food of cattle, wear and tear, labour, &c. &c.

	£.
Brought over	3,393
Gratification to the conductor of the farm, either by way of a fixed ſalary, or ſo much *per cent.* upon the whole product, ſuppoſe five *per cent.* but I ſtate a certain ſum here, being the moſt ſatisfactory way - -	200
Rent, &c. - - -	320
	3,913

PRODUCE.

1290 acres of turneps, at 2 *l.*[*]	2,580
320 acres of carrots, at 6*l.*[†] - -	1,920
200 acres of potatoes and Jeruſalem artichoaks, at 8 *l.*[‡] - -	1,600
Product	6,100

---

[*] This is by no means an adequate price for turneps laid into the ſtall for cattle, and the profits upon the fatting; but I chuſe to lay every article ſo low, that no objections can be brought on account of ſmall articles too numerous to inſert here. A medium acre would certainly in this manner yield 3 *l.*

[†] I might have doubled this; but I remember not to carry in any article the appearance of things above reality; beſides, the ſoil is not yet in ſuch order as it will be.

[‡] The ſame obſervation is applicable to this.

	£.
Product	6,100
Expences	3,913
Profit	2,187

SECOND YEAR.

	£.
Tillage, ſeed, harveſting, thraſhing and carrying out the product of 1,125 acres of barley and buckwheat, at 2 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.*	2,373
Ditto of 30 acres of wheat, at 2 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 *d.*	62
Ditto of 10 acres of rye, at 2 *l.*	20
Ditto of 50 acres of drilled wheat, and 50 of rye, at 1 *l.* 18 *s.* 3 *d.*[*]	190
Ditto of 300 acres of carrots, at 2 *l.* 13 *s.*	795
Ditto of 70 acres of drilled barley, at 1 *l.* 14 *s.*	119
Carry over	3,559

---

[*] The difference of the ſeed-rye here is ſo ſmall an article that it is not worth while to note it.

	£.
Brought over	3,559
Ditto of 80 acres of horſe hoed potatoes and Jeruſalem artichoaks, at 1 *l.* 7 *s.* 3 *d.* - - -	109
Ditto of 40 acres of ditto, in common method, at 3 *l.* - -	120
Ditto of 45 acres of drilled turneps, at 1 *l.* 8 *s.* 9 *d.* - - -	65
Ditto of 30 acres of broad caſt ditto, at 1 *l.* 7 *s.* - - -	40
Ditto of 75 acres of planting experiments the year of ſowing -	250
Tillage, gathering, ſowing and cleanſing of 20 acres of graſſes, part of the 75, and the continuation of the preparation of the reſt, at 20 *l.* per acre - - -	400
Five extraordinary ſervants -	125
Rent and ſalary - - -	520
All expences attending the manures of the 25th diviſion - -	80
	5,268

PRODUCE.

1,125 acres of barley and buckwheat, 4 quarters per acre, at 18 *s.* * per quarter - - -	4,049
30 acres of wheat, at 2½ quarters per acre, at 2 *l.* - -	150
10 acres of rye, 2½ quarters per acre, at 1 *l.* 14 *s.* - - -	42
50 acres drilled wheat, 1 quarter per acre, at 2 *l.* † - -	100
50 acres of drilled rye, 1 quarter per acre, at 1 *l.* 14 *s.* - -	84
300 acres of carrots, at 6 *l.* -	1,800
70 acres of drilled barley, 1 quarter per acre, at 18 *s.* - -	63
Carry over	6,288

---

* In the parts of the kingdom with which I am acquainted, buckwheat ſells as well as barley, but if it is uſed on the farm in fattening hogs, it will pay better than barley; and profit ariſing from ſuch a practice is great---the expence of carrying out is curtailed, and the manure gained is immenſe.

† The new huſbandry being yet a novelty, I calculate its produce very low, that it may not be objected to me, that I rate any *uncertain* article of produce too high.

	£.
Brought over	6,288
80 acres of horſe hoed potatoes and artichoaks, at 6 *l.*	480
40 acres of ditto, in common method, at 8 *l.*	320
30 acres of turneps, at 2 *l.*	60
45 ditto, horſe hoed, at 1 *l.* 5 *s.*	56
Produce	7,204
Expences	5,268
Profit	1,936

THIRD YEAR.

	£.
Seed, ſowing, mowing, making, ſtacking, &c. &c. of 545 acres of clover and ray-graſs, at 15 *s.* per acre: I ſuppoſe the whole made into hay; whereas half of it would probably be fed, and that circumſtance would lower the expence greatly	408
Ditto of 130 acres of burnet, at 1 *l.* 5 *s.*	150
Carry over	558

	£.
Brought over,	558
Ditto of 190 acres of ſainfoine, at 1 *l.* 8 *s.* - - -	267
Ditto 200 acres of lucerne, at 1 *l.* 15 *s.* - - - -	350
Tillage, ſeed, harveſting, &c. &c. of 40 acres of white peaſe, at 2 *l.* 4 *s.*	88
Ditto of 40 acres of barley, at 2 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.* - - -	85
Ditto of 15 acres of wheat, at 2 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 *d.* - - -	31
Tillage, &c. &c. of 5 acres of turneps, at 1 *l.* 7 *s.* - - -	7
Ditto, &c. of 10 acres ditto, horſe hoed, at 1 *l.* 8 *s.* 9 *d.* - -	15
Ditto of 120 acres of potatoes, at 3 *l.*	360
Ditto of 20 acres of carrots, at 2 *l.* 13 *s.*	53
Ditto of 80 acres of potatoes and Jeruſalem artichoaks, horſe hoed, at 1 *l.* 7 *s.* 3 *d.* - -	109
Ditto of 100 acres of drilled wheat and rye, at 1 *l.* 18 *s.* 3 *d.* - -	190
Carry over	2,113

	£.
Brought over,	2,113
Ditto of 50 ditto of drilled barley, at 1 *l.* 14 *s.*	85
Ditto 50 ditto of drilled lucerne, at 2*l.*	100
Ditto of 30 ditto, tranſplanted ditto, at 6*l.*	180
Ditto of 50 ditto of drilled ſainfoine, at 2 *l.*	100
Ditto of 30 ditto, tranſplanted ditto, at 6*l.*	180
Ditto of 50 ditto drilled burnet, at 2 *l.*	100
Ditto of 30 ditto, tranſplanted ditto, at 6 *l.*	180
Hoeing 75 acres of planting experiment	40
Ditto between the double hedges	40
20 acres of graſſes	400
Servants, rent and ſalary	645
Liming 10 acres, and expences on other manures	100
	4,263

PRODUCE.

	£.
545 acres of clover and ray-graſs, at 1 *l.* 15 *s.* per acre * - -	953
130 ditto of burnet, at ditto - -	228
190 ditto of ſainfoine, at ditto -	332
200 ditto of lucerne, at ditto - -	350
40 acres of white peaſe, at 4 quarters per acre, at 1 *l.* 8 *s.* per quarter	225
40 acres of barley, at 4 quarters per acre, at 18 *s.* per quarter - -	140
15 acres of wheat, at 3 quarters per acre, at 2 *l.* per quarter - -	90
5 acres of turneps, at 2 *l.* - -	10
10 ditto of ditto horſe hoed, at 1 *l.* 10 *s.*	15
120 ditto of potatoes well dunged for, at 10 *l.* per acre - -	1,200
20 ditto of carrots, at 7 *l.* - -	140
Carry over	3,683

---

* This article of product I have calculated ſo low that I hink it muſt be apparent to every one converſant in theſe atters.

	£.
Brought over	3,683
80 ditto of potatoes, &c. horſe hoed at 6 *l.* - - - -	480
100 ditto of drilled wheat and rye, at 1 *l.* 17 *s.* the medium - -	185
50 ditto of drilled barley, 1 quarter, at 18 *s.* - - -	45
50 ditto of drilled lucerne - -	50
30 ditto tranſplanted ditto at 15 *s.* -	42
50 ditto drilled ſainfoine - -	50
30 ditto tranſplanted ditto at 15 *s.*	42
50 ditto drilled burnet - -	50
30 ditto tranſplanted ditto at 15 *s.*	42
	£.
Produce - - -	4,669
Expences - - -	4,263
Profit - - - -	£. 406

I have taken the liberty to lay theſe tedious particulars before your Lordſhip, that you might not ſuppoſe I ſkimmed over the ſurface of my propoſal, and preſented you with nothing but generals. Here, my Lord, are the particulars of every year, of roots, corn and graſſes. I ſtop, becauſe the next would progreſſively be more and more profitable; and I had rather this plan took a loſing appearance than one of profit. This year the expences upon the lucerne, ſainfoine and burnet, run extremely high, and the returns are trifling; but in the ſucceeding ones, the caſe will change greatly. In the fourth year comes the general manuring, after which the crops would of courſe increaſe in value; nor is the 400*l.* a year for graſſes at an end yet: which circumſtance, my Lord, would all concur to encreaſe the profit, nor do I know any to decreaſe it, except the renewal of a part of the dead hedges in the fourth year, which will amount to about 500*l.* after which no expence will be incurred that will not be attended with encreaſing profit.

In theſe three firſt years the profit amounts to 4,529*l.* ample intereſt for the firſt expended ſum! But does your Lordſhip think I have palliated or ſunk any articles of expence? In anſwer to ſuch a ſuſpicion, blot out all this profit, and let the account be a balance: Your Lordſhip will then gain nothing. Who could ſuppoſe I ſhould take this trouble to diſcover the means of increaſing your fortune?—Six and twenty thouſand pounds is no ſuch great ſum in your poſſeſſions, that it muſt not be expended without intereſt: Believe me, my Lord, your giving ſo noble, ſo glorious a proof of your liberality in advancing the intereſts of your country, will ſecure you more genuine fame than ever Briton yet enjoyed. Without an idea of *profit*, will not the heart-felt ſatisfaction of being ſo beneficial to the human ſpecies, be a ſufficient reward: The experimental farm may join your park pale, or even your garden, that you may at any time walk amidſt your own creation, and have for ever before your eyes more flattering pictures than e'er a Louis can boaſt. The reſult of every year's experiments ſhould be collected, and arranged by the conductor of the farm, and publiſhed for the general good; that regiſter would be no leſs the pandect of your country's beſt knowledge than the temple of your Lordſhip's fame.

Suppoſing, however, that ſome profit did ariſe from this farm, (which by the bye would moſt undoubtedly be the caſe) and that your Lordſhip was not ſolicitous about the appropriating it to your *private* uſe, there would be a method of expending it in promoting the ends of the general deſign, and that very effectually:

You might apply ſuch overplus in giving premiums for the promotion of Britiſh and Iriſh agriculture.

The excellent Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. have given premiums in agriculture, ſince their firſt eſtabliſhment, to the amount of 2,202 *l.* And, my Lord, it is worthy of your obſervation, how great a reputation that ſmall ſum has gained them! And yet there can be no doubt but you may gain ſix times the honour by beſtowing as much in the ſame manner; for there is a vaſt difference between ſuch an exertion of publick ſpirit in one man, and a body of ſome thouſands.

By means of premiums given out of the profits of the before deſcribed farm, your Lordſhip would have it in your power to lay before the Publick moſt ſatisfactory accounts of any points in huſbandry, which are at preſent unknown; and ſuch would form a liſt too numerous for me to inſert in theſe ſheets. Nor would ſuch premiums lay under any diſadvantages in reſpect of a contrariety of opinions in a body of various people of different ideas—they would probably be imagined and ſketched out in a regular train of connected experiments, and ſuch encouragement given to all trials, as would effectually gain a requiſite knowledge: nor ſhould I omit to remark, that the moſt uſeful circumſtance of all (the publication to the world of the reſult of every experiment) would not be neglected; the regiſter of the EXPERIMENTAL FARM might be regularly publiſhed with the minutes of the trials, carried on in conſequence of the premiums, by way of appendix, and the whole work would form a grand repoſitory of the moſt uſeful intelligence to all mankind that ever was known in the world.——What a buzz would be heard all over Europe, if the loſt books of Livy, or the miſſing tragedies of Sophocles were to ſee the light—yet what compariſon in reſpect of *uſefulneſs to man* can be formed between both, and as many pages of ſuch a work as it is in your Lordſhip's power to direct the publication of.

I might venture to aſſure you, that the above-mentioned farm would yield a profit of above two thouſand pounds a year: but to ſtate it at no more than half that ſum; What a noble fund would it be for yearly premiums! This I will aſſert, that your Lordſhip might diſpatch a proper perſon to undertake the tour of Europe upon the plan * of gaining a general knowlege of agriculture, and beſides handſomely ſupporting the expence, give much more noble premiums at home than the Society have done yet. Juſt heaven! my Lord, what a fund for immortal fame is in your power to command!

---

* See *The Farmer's Letters*, p. 303.

Nor ſhould I here forget to remark, that an attention to the concerns of agriculture is highly conſiſtent with the utmoſt blaze of military reputation. Your Lordſhip has wielded the ſword with uncommon glory; diſdain not to direct the plough. Remember Regulus the firſt in Roman fame—forget not the greateſt examples antiquity can boaſt, and be convinced, that agriculture and arms were never inconſiſtent.—To form other ideas, would be to contradict the opinions of the wiſeſt and moſt polite nation in the world; but let me recommend to your Lordſhip's peruſal (in proof of this aſſertion) *The Reverend* Mr. Harte's *Eſſays on Huſbandry*, not long ſince publiſhed, a work ſuperior to all praiſe; inferior only to the author's merit.

I cannot conclude this letter without taking the liberty of aſſuring you, that I have not preſumed to offer advice, or to ſketch plans on a ſubject in which I am unexperienced: I am very far from meaning to boaſt of any knowledge ſuperior to my fellow countrymen, but I muſt repeat it, I ſpeak from my experience; I have drawn up no plans that are impracticable, nor have I ſketched tables of expences and produce from mere fancy: I am ready to explain any dubious or ill-expreſſed paſſages, and hope I ſhall never ſhew myſelf unacquainted with the *practical* part of huſbandry, however deficient I may be in accurately expreſſing the ideas which that practice gives me. Strongly convinced of the benefits which would reſult to the agriculture of this kingdom from the execution of ſuch a plan as I have ſketched, I have freely recommended it to your Lordſhip's patronage, as an object worthy of the legiſlature's attention, but which can only be expected from a ſingle perſon. Twenty-ſix thouſand pounds is a large ſum of money; but he who poſſeſſes great wealth may think himſelf happy in finding that riches can purchaſe genuine fame; nor is reputation the only attendant upon the execution of this idea; the poſſeſſion of a beautiful eſtate, highly ornamented and ſo diſpoſed into diviſions, that it may at any time be converted into twenty-ſix farms, with the expence of building houſes alone, is ſurely a matter of ſome conſequence. Laſtly, I ſhould remark, that if your Lordſhip was willing to execute a ſcheme of ſuch publick utility, but at a *leſs* expence; this plan might be curtailed and a ſyſtem of ſmaller experiments carried on. An EXPERIMENTAL FARM is within the reach of many eſtates among the Nobility of theſe kingdoms, but as I obſerved at the beginning of theſe papers, there is not equal reaſons for expecting it of them as from your Lordſhip: though many of them have it in their power to form *ſmall* ones, which would be attended with admirable conſequences; and I flatter myſelf, the nation will be happy enough to ſee in the Great more attention to agriculture than hitherto has been common among them. There is a ſpirit of enquiry into the whole ſyſtem of rural œconomy at preſent in Europe, that bids fair to leave no part of it neglected. If your Lordſhip is ſo nobly liberal as to execute this propoſal, the agriculture of the light ſoil will be perfectly known; others, emulous to follow the firſt example, may form theirs on different ſoils, until the whole is reduced to philoſophic certainty. That this may ſpeedily be the caſe in Britain, is the earneſt wiſh of,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient Servant,

Auguſt, 1767. * * * * *.

BRITISH MUSEUM 25 OC 13

FINIS.

W